

By Senator Evers

2-00738-11

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Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
urging Congress to support the implementation of a
regional United Recovery Plan for the Northwest
Florida Panhandle.

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon oil rig
exploded in the Gulf of Mexico, and on April 22, 2010, the
Deepwater Horizon oil rig sank in the Gulf of Mexico resulting
in widespread environmental and economic consequences, and

WHEREAS, seven coastal counties in the Northwest Florida
Panhandle region, which include Bay, Escambia, Franklin, Gulf,
Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton Counties, incurred the most
significant impacts as a result of the disaster, and

WHEREAS, this coastal region has suffered losses to its
environmental resources, and

WHEREAS, the local economy in this coastal region has
further suffered incalculable economic losses due to the oil
spill as it has impacted tourism, property values, the
recreational fishing and commercial seafood industries,
recreational opportunities, marinas and boating, restaurants,
the quality of life for residents of and visitors to the region,
and numerous other facets of the economy, and

WHEREAS, the coastal counties of the Northwest Florida
Panhandle region seek to organize a unified recovery response
effort in order to mitigate the disastrous environmental and
economic impacts facing this region and promote economic growth
and sustainability, and

WHEREAS, to facilitate this common goal, the counties of

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30 the Northwest Florida Panhandle region resolve to develop a
31 comprehensive United Recovery Plan detailing a proposed strategy
32 to facilitate both environmental remediation and economic
33 diversification within the region, and

34 WHEREAS, the United Recovery Plan will represent the
35 counties' collective strategy for regional recovery and preserve
36 each county's right to develop and implement an individual
37 strategy for local recovery, NOW, THEREFORE,

38
39 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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41 That the Legislature recognizes and supports the creation
42 and implementation of a United Recovery Plan for the Northwest
43 Florida Panhandle.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature recognizes the
45 counties' collective strategy for regional recovery and each
46 county's right to develop and implement an individual strategy
47 for local recovery.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
49 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
50 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
51 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
52 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.